

CONTEMPORARY RECORDS OF *BRACHYSTELES PARVICORNIS* (COSTA) IN THE UNITED STATES (HEMIPTERA: HETEROPTERA: ANTHOCORIDAE)

JOHN D. LATTIN¹ AND ADAM ASQUITH^{1,2}

¹Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Department of Entomology,
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2907

²Current address: Department of Entomology, University of Hawaii,
Kauai Experiment Station, 7370-A Kuamoo Road, Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

Abstract.—The Palearctic anthocorid *Brachysteles parvicornis* (Costa) is reported from Maine and Massachusetts, together with host plant data and an illustration of the nymph.

The European anthocorid *Brachysteles parvicornis* (Costa) was recently reported from North America for the first time based upon several specimens collected in 1925 from Noodline, New Jersey, and Long Island, New York (Asquith and Lattin, 1990). We questioned whether this introduced species was established along the east coast and we did not expect the answer to appear so soon. It has. The senior author collected a series of specimens from two localities, one in Maine and the other in Massachusetts, in mid-September, 1990. Both locales were roadside sites.

A series of 13 females, 7 males, 2 V-instar, and 1 IV-instar nymphs was collected 5 mi E Bucksport, Maine, Hancock County, roadside, Hwy #1, 14 September 1990, ex *Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss. This site is on the central Maine coast. The second series, 4 females and 1 V-instar nymph, was taken at Roland C. Nickerson State Park, 3 mi W Orleans, Massachusetts, Barnstable County, roadside, Hwy 6A, 21 September 1990, ex *Pinus rigida* Mill. This site is on the north side of the base of Cape Cod. The spruce trees at the Maine site had lichen-encrusted branches, and the oribatid mite *Humerobates rostromellatus* Grandjean (family Ceratozetidae) was abundant on the branches. According to G. W. Krantz, Oregon State University (pers. comm.), this is a cosmopolitan arboreal mite that also is found in Europe. The branches of pitch pine at the Massachusetts locality showed few obvious lichens, but adults and tritonymphs of the same oribatid mite were also abundant. The presence of the mites supports the observations of Carayon (cited in Péricart, 1972) that the prey seem to be members of the mite suborder Oribatida.

The occurrence of mature nymphs, males, and females in early fall, combined with the earlier records of males and females collected in December (New York), and a male in May (New Jersey), suggests that adults of both sexes overwinter. Figure 1 shows the mature nymph.

This very small anthocorid (2.1–2.5 mm) could easily be overlooked among the debris beaten from coniferous trees. Almost certainly the species will be taken elsewhere along the eastern seaboard where it now seems to be well established.

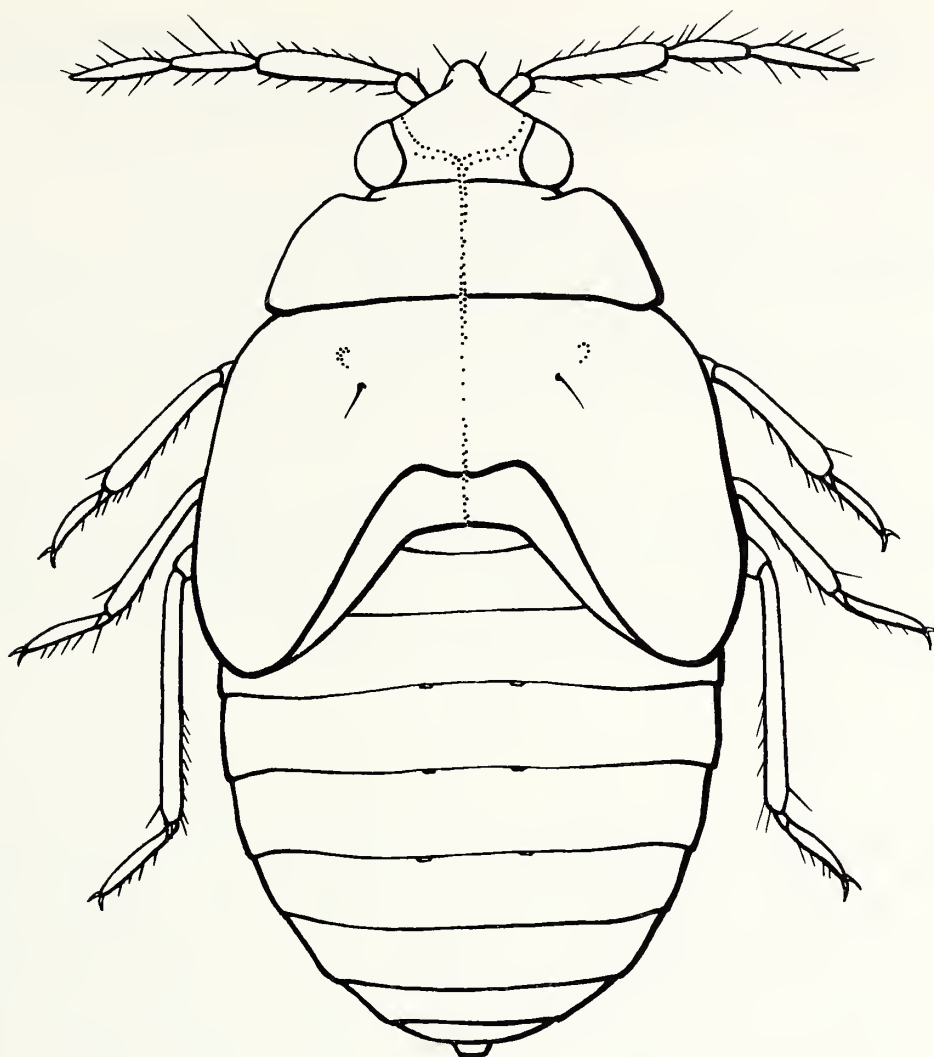


Fig. 1. Fifth-instar nymph of *Brachysteles parvicornis* from near Orleans, Massachusetts.

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